



Lay clerkship 2017 - 2018

The Chapter of Chelmsford Cathedral wishes to appoint a Bass lay clerk for the academic year 2017-18; this is a one-year appointment, subject to review. The Cathedral Choir plays a key role in the delivery of the *Opus Dei* in a cathedral serving one of England's largest Anglican dioceses. The region is fast expanding and the Cathedral's ministry is growing with that of the diocese to meet new needs. Chelmsford is a growing city with excellent new amenities and transport links to London and East Anglia, Stansted and Southend airports, and Harwich International Port.

The music programme at Chelmsford Cathedral is busy and varied, encompassing choral services and concerts in the cathedral and across the diocese, with frequent visits to venues around the region and abroad. In the last two years the Cathedral Choir has broadcast on Radio 3 and has sung for Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Concert performances have included music from Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concerts* and Monteverdi's *Vespers*, and the choirs have given an annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Forthcoming plans include: Fauré's *Requiem*, a Bach cantata evensong, and a number of concerts and special services.

The regular work of the choir involves singing at the five choral services each week as well as their associated rehearsals. A lay clerk will be expected to be an excellent sight-reader, as the repertoire of the choir is wide and varied and rehearsal time is limited; previous experience of the Anglican choral repertoire is essential. The lay clerks have a role in mentoring the choral scholars, as well as providing musical experience to assist in the scholars' musical development. A number of volunteer singing men and deputies completes the back row. The lay clerkship is worth £8000, and is currently available for one academic year; accommodation is not provided.

The Cathedral Choir of boys and men provides the music at the majority of Cathedral services. Boys are recruited from a variety of local schools and the back row comprises lay clerks, choral scholars (and deputies) and a number of unpaid singing men.

The Cathedral Girls' Choir is directed by the Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir. Singing regularly for Evensongs on Tuesday evening, the girls join with the men of the choir for at least two Sundays' services per term, and at various special services in the church's year including the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve and the Epiphany & Candlemas Carol Service.

The Music Staff

Canon Precentor

Organist & Master of the Choristers

Assistant Organist & Director of the Girls' Choir

Choir Matron

Music & Liturgy Assistant

The Revd Canon Simon Pothen

James Davy

Laurence Lyndon-Jones

Keren Hollier

Stephanie Brasier

A typical week's musical commitments are:

Thursday	4.30 - 6.00	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full or Men's voices, alternating on a weekly basis)
Friday	4.30 - 6.00 6.00 - 7.00 7.00 - 7.20	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) Men's rehearsal <i>Compline (during Lent)</i>
Saturday	4.30 - 6.00	Rehearsal & Evensong (Full) (see below)
Sunday	10.30 - 12.30 2.45 - 4.30	Rehearsal & Eucharist or Mattins (Full) Rehearsal & Evensong (Full)

Monday to Wednesday is normally free from choir duties, although from time to time services and other events take place, when the choir men will be expected to attend. The choir is normally free from duties on at least two Saturdays per month. Seasonal changes to this pattern are notified a half-term in advance.

Applications should be supported by the names of three referees, including

- A professional musician (especially a current choir director)
- Someone who has known you in a professional capacity for at least two years

Please send a letter of application and CV (including your e-mail address) by email to: stephanie.brasier@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk or by post to: *The Organist & Master of the Choristers, Cathedral Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1TY*

Auditions will be arranged on an *ad hoc* basis according to mutual convenience.

To discuss informally any aspect of the scholarship, please contact James Davy via 01245 294481 (Music and Liturgy Assistant) or by email at james.davy@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk